This American Voice: Expanding the American Literary Canon

As we explore the writers and thinkers in American literature, it is important that we are inclusive of all voices. For this research project, you will choose a book written by an author whose voice has been traditionally marginalized by the American Literary Canon—a collection of works that is largely dominated by dead white men. In addition to reading the book you choose, you will read literary criticism\* on your author and his or her work. After completing the book and finding two sources of literary criticism, you will complete a writing assignment (not a formal essay, I promise—no seriously).

The Process:

* Choose a piece of literature—could be a novel, a book of poems, a play or a memoir
* Read said literature and take notes—we’ll talk more about this
* Find two sources of literary criticism from the MARVEL! database and from the books of criticism in the library
* Take notes on the criticism
* Complete a writing assignment that you take through multiple drafts

The Timeline: (subject to change)

* March 3rd: Have your author/selection(s) chosen
* March 20th/21st\*\*: Have book completed with research
* Week of March 20th: Work on writing assignment: drafting, editing, revising
* March 23rd/24th: Turn in writing assignment

\*Literary criticism is simply commentary written by others who have read, studied and formulated some opinions about your author

\*\*Note that the 21st is my birthday, so consider having your book and research completed as a birthday present to me.